

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a plurality of dismountable units necessary for
image forming;

5 a first storage section which stores an amount of
use of each unit;

 a second storage section which stores a condition
which enables each unit to execute an optimal image
forming operation corresponding to the amount of use of
10 each unit; and

 a control section which reads the condition from
the second storage section, which enables said each
unit to execute the optimal image forming operation, on
the basis of the amount of use of said each unit stored
15 in the first storage section, thereby operating said
each unit under the read condition.

 2. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising a detection section which
detects whether or not said each unit is new or old,
20 and wherein the control section resets the amount of
use stored in the first storage section and then reads
the condition which enables said each unit to execute
the optimal image forming operation, when the detection
section has detected that said each unit is new.

25 3. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein one of the units necessary for the
image forming is a drum unit.

10014165.030802

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming is a charging unit.

5 5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming is a developing unit.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the amount of use of said each unit is the number of printed sheets of paper.

10 7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first storage section is provided in said each unit.

15 8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second storage section is provided in said each unit.

9. A method of operating an image forming apparatus, comprising:

receiving an instruction to form an image;

20 reading an amount of use of each of units from a first storage section which stores the amount of use of said each unit;

25 reading a condition, set to enable said each unit to execute an optimal image forming operation, from a second storage section which stores the condition set to enable said each unit to execute the optimal image forming operation, on the basis of the amount of use of said each unit read from the first

10044165-030802

storage section.

10. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising resetting the amount of use stored in the first storage section for said each unit when a detection section which detects whether or not said each unit is new has detected that said each unit is a new one.

11. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming operation is a drum unit.

12. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming operation is a charging unit.

13. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming operation is a developing unit.

14. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the amount of use of said each unit is the number of printed sheets of paper.

15. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first storage section is provided in said each unit.

16. The method of operating the image forming

10014165-030802

apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second storage section is provided in said each unit.

10014165-030802